

Increasing contraceptive access and options

About the Injectables Access Collaborative

INJECTABLES ACCESS
COLLABORATIVE

PATH

Clinton Health Access Initiative
inSupply Health

Jhpiego

JSI

Access to quality contraceptive information, products, and services is critical to the advancement of sexual and reproductive rights, maternal and child health, and gender equality. Subcutaneous DMPA, or DMPA-SC, is an innovative injectable contraceptive that can expand access and choice for women and adolescent girls when offered as part of a broad method mix. Because it is easy to use, requires minimal training, and can be self-injected, DMPA-SC is a simple addition to service delivery channels in both the public and private sectors and at the community level.

The Injectables Access Collaborative (AC)—formerly known as the DMPA-SC Access Collaborative (AC)—provides data-driven technical assistance (TA), coordination, and tools to ensure equitable access to DMPA-SC, including self-injection (SI), as one contraceptive option, delivered through informed choice programming. DMPA-SC is part of the family planning (FP) method mix of nearly 55 countries around the world, nearly 35 of which offer SI. This includes countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

In this iteration, the PATH-led AC has a new partner consortium comprising the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), inSupply Health, Jhpiego, and JSI. This new name and phase of partnership reflect an increased focus on global market management and analytics for DMPA-SC as part of the broader injectables market.

A novel contraceptive option is transforming access and use

Injectable contraceptives are widely used in many countries because they are effective, safe, and private. DMPA-SC makes injections simpler because it is injected into the fat under the skin, rather than into the muscle like intramuscular DMPA (DMPA-IM). The DMPA-SC product available today (Sayana[®] Press) combines the contraceptive drug and needle into a single device that is small, light, and easy to use. As of August 2023, it can be purchased at US\$0.85 per dose for public-sector purchasers in low-income and lower-middle-income countries—a price similar to DMPA-IM.*

Incorporating DMPA-SC into a country's FP program and contraceptive method mix can help in the following ways.

Making evidence-based self-care more available and accessible

The World Health Organization includes a strong recommendation for contraceptive SI as a self-care approach in its [Consolidated guideline on self-care interventions for health and well-being](#). Introducing self-care interventions, including contraceptive self-care, has the potential to transform health systems and accelerate progress toward universal health coverage.



A health worker holds DMPA-SC along with other contraceptive methods. Photo: PATH/Will Boase

Advancing national and global family planning goals, especially those related to access and use

Based on robust evidence compiled by the AC and partners, an increasing number of countries worldwide are adding DMPA-SC to their contraceptive method mix and scaling up SI along with provider-administered DMPA-SC.

Evidence demonstrates that DMPA-SC:

- Can be delivered through all levels of the health system and across the total FP market, being uniquely suited for task-shifting, remote distribution, and harder-to-reach populations.
- Can increase access for new FP users, including young women and adolescent girls.
- Can promote continued voluntary contraceptive use—research has shown that SI enables women to use injectable contraception longer than injections from providers.

Strengthening delivery systems and markets for all family planning methods

DMPA-SC SI represents the first time in more than a decade that a new contraceptive practice is being scaled up globally. Investments made in expanding access to DMPA-SC and SI through public and private delivery channels—including community-based distribution and pharmacies and drug shops—can be used to increase access to other FP methods.

* Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Pfizer and Becton, Dickinson & Company Expand Partnership for Greater Access to Injectable Contraceptive for Women in Low- and Lower-Middle-Income Countries [press release]. New York, NY: Pfizer; August 3, 2023. www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/bill-melinda-gates-foundation-childrens-investment-fund.

Access Collaborative activities

Since 2017, the AC has been working with ministries of health across public and private sectors to facilitate introduction and scale-up of self-injectable DMPA-SC. The AC provides dedicated TA to integrate DMPA-SC alongside other methods in FP programs in several ways as outlined below.

Technical assistance and tools to accelerate introduction and scale-up of self-injectable DMPA-SC

AC experts provide flexible, demand-driven scale-up support to a range of countries that request TA. This assistance is free-of-charge and is conducted in three primary formats:

- **Continuous TA** is being provided in 11 countries that are actively scaling up DMPA-SC/SI by expanding service delivery into new channels, cadres, and geographies. The following continuous TA countries were selected at the request of ministries of health: Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia
- **Short-term TA** is available for countries earlier in the DMPA-SC/SI introduction and scale-up process. More [information and a request form for short-term TA](#) is available on the DMPA-SC Resource Library.
- **Self-serve TA** enables countries at any stage of introduction and scale-up to learn about DMPA-SC/SI. The AC's DMPA-SC Resource Library offers comprehensive information for implementers and decision-makers. The AC also hosts interactive webinars and workshops through its Anglophone and Francophone Learning and Action Network (LAN) to share evidence, resources, and lessons learned.

Data sharing to make connections between country and global priorities and needs

A key component of the AC is its monitoring, learning, and evaluation work to facilitate data-driven decision-making. The team shares data and information gathered across countries to help shape the global market for DMPA-SC, with the ultimate aim of dependable supply available to meet demand. The AC helps monitor global supply and in-country demand, assess funding gaps, communicate needs to key donors, and highlight country-level success stories, innovative approaches, and challenges that need urgent attention. Central to these activities is the AC's online dashboard of collated data on DMPA-SC and SI scale-up progress from approximately 20 countries.

Learning and Action Network

The Access Collaborative facilitates [the LAN](#) which includes family planning program leaders and implementers from across sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. The LAN fosters information exchange and learning within and among countries by sharing evidence and lessons learned, troubleshooting programmatic challenges, and accelerating adoption of best

Why collaboration matters

A reliable supply of DMPA-SC at affordable prices will only be achieved if country partners work together—including ministries of health, technical working groups, implementers, commercial entities, and civil society groups.

A strong global market starts at the country level. Equipped with tools and analyses supported by the AC, such as costed scale-up plans, forecasting, and consumption monitoring, partners can build well-functioning public- and private-sector markets in-country. Without these pieces, countries are at greater risk of stockouts and product expiry in warehouses and on shelves.

Unlocking country demand for DMPA-SC and SI will help shape a robust global market for this product. The AC and partners are well-positioned to track overall demand from countries and communicate insights to global stakeholders. This information is critical to ensuring the amount of product produced matches global demand and is made available at ideal prices.

practices for scale-up of DMPA-SC and self-injection. The LAN hosts workshops, webinars, and virtual discussion groups on topics including self-injection, task-sharing, monitoring and evaluation, lower-cost training approaches, and more.

Self-injection Ambassadors

The AC leads the [Self-injection Ambassadors](#) advocacy initiative to elevate the evidence-based potential of SI to increase contraceptive access and options. The initiative has grown to include 24 Ambassadors from nine countries. The AC equips these experts with the latest evidence and advocacy tools and convenes the group regularly for collaborative learning exchange.

DMPA-SC Resource Library

As part of its efforts to share resources and tools, the AC has developed the [DMPA-SC Resource Library](#) (www.FPoptions.org) to house comprehensive information on evidence, country introduction, service delivery and advocacy tools, and more.

Join our efforts

Ensuring women and adolescent girls have access to a wide range of contraceptive methods, including DMPA-SC SI, requires coordination and partnership across all levels. We encourage new country partners to join our efforts. For more information, please email FPoptions@path.org. You are also welcome to sign up for our mailing lists at www.FPoptions.org/contact.

The **Injectables Access Collaborative (AC)** provides data-driven technical assistance, coordination, resources, and tools to ensure that women and girls have increased access to DMPA-SC and self-injection as part of an expanded range of contraceptive methods, delivered through informed choice programming. The AC is led by PATH in partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), inSupply Health, Jhpiego, and JSI.

More information

FPoptions@path.org
www.FPoptions.org
www.path.org/dmpa-sc



May 2024